Gorakhpur		Srinagar	(UA)
Guwahati City		Surat	(UA)
Guntur		Thiruvanantapuram	(UA)
Gwalior (UA)	Vadodara	(UA)	
Indore (UA)		Varanasi	(UA)
Hubli-Dharwad		Vijayawada	(UA)
Jabalpur	(UA)	Vishakhapatnam	(UA)
Jaipur	(UA)	Warangal	

Area 'C' will comprise all areas not mentioned in this list.

NB: U.A. stands for Urban Agglomeration.

Job loss due to economic meltdown

2821. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether at least half a million jobs have been lost in the country during the October-December quarter according to the first comprehensive official study of the employment fallout of the economic meltdown undertaken by the Centre;

(b) if so, whether according to the quick survey carried out by his Ministry during the period from January 7—24, the total estimated employment in 8 important industries has declined from 60.2 million in September to 60 million in October, and 15.9 million in November, 15.7 million in December; and

(c) the concrete steps Government proposes to take to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (c) With a view to assess the impact of economic slowdown on employment in the industries/sectors supposed to be badly affected by the slowdown during the quarter October-December, 2008, Ministry of Labour & Employment carried out a survey in 2581 units spread over 11 States/UTs in important sectors, *viz.* Mining, Textiles, Metals, Gems & Jewellery, Automobile, Transport and IT/BPO. These sectors contributed more than 60% to GDP in the year 2007-08. It has been revealed that about half a million workers have lost their jobs during October-December, 2008. The major impact of the slowdown is noticed in the export oriented units.

The most affected sectors were Gems & Jewellery, Transport and Automobiles where the employment has declined by 8.58 %, 4.03%, and 2.42 % respectively during the period Oct-Dec, 2008. In Textile sector, 0.91 per cent of the workers have lost their jobs. The total estimated employment in all the sectors covered by the survey went down from 16.2 million during September, 2008 to 15.7 million during December, 2008 resulting in job loss of about half a million. In the second quarterly survey to assess the impact of economic slowdown on employment during January-March,

2009 additional sectors of leather and handloom-powerloom were also covered. Total estimated employment in the sectors covered has increased by 0.6% during January-March, 2009 period. Non-export units have shown higher rate (0.92%) of increase in employment as compared to export units (0.28%). As compared to October-December, 2008 quarter wherein about half a million workers lost their jobs, the employment in selected sectors has increased by a quarter million during the January-March, 2009 period. During April, 2008-March, 2009 period, employment in the sectors covered has increased by 0.15 per cent, resulting in an addition of 0.28 million jobs.

Assessment of working of employment exchanges

2822. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has assessed the working of employment exchanges against the present day complex nature of the job market;

(b) if so, with what results thereto;

(c) whether Government is considering any proposal to reorient, modernize or abolish the system; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Employment Exchanges are functioning under administrative and financial control of the respective State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The Working Group on National Employment Service, consisting of representatives of Central and State Governments reviews functioning of the Employment Exchanges in the country periodically and suggests corrective measures. State Governments have taken many initiatives such as training of registered job-seekers, organising career melas, job-melas, campus recruitment programmes, etc to increase placement in the private sector keeping in view the changed employment market scenario. These efforts are showing good results.

(c) The Employment Exchanges are being modernized through computerization by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations keeping in view the resources available with them. Though some of the Employment Exchanges are computerized, many of them still work manually resulting in handicap in dissemination of information to employers and job-seekers. Modernisation and upgradation of Employment Exchanges has now been identified as one of the Mission Mode Projects under the National-e-Governance Plan by Government of India with an objective to progressively support all the State Governments to make effective use of IT in various activities for providing better services to all the stakeholders.

(d) Does not arise.

Cost of providing universal coverage

2823. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a recent ILO study of 12 developing low income countries including India wherein it is stated that it would cost India just 3.9 per cent more